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LETTER DATED 5 MAY 1995 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of an appeal by the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations Security Council (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Alarming information causing great concern about systematic crimes committed by the armed forces and official police units of Croatia against the captured soldiers and defenceless population of the Republic of Serbian Krajina are received in succession from the territory occupied by Croatia after the aggression against the Republic of Serbian Krajina of 1 May 1995.

By this unscrupulous use of force, Croatia has violated the concrete Cease-Fire Agreement of March 1994 as well as a number of United Nations Security Council resolutions and other relevant documents calling upon all concerned to refrain from the use of force. By this aggression Croatia has also ignored the current efforts exerted by the Security Council towards the safeguarding of peace and security, which are particularly manifested in the resolutions on the United Nations peace-keeping forces deployed in this region. In addition, by the aggression against the Republic of Serbian Krajina, Croatia has hampered the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations peace-keeping forces and directly endangered the security and lives of their personnel only two days after the Security Council adopted the resolution on their new mandate.

The Croatian armed forces are continuing the aggression and the captured soldiers and the surrounding defenceless civilian population in the region of Pakrac and Okučani are exposed to their brutal physical maltreatment. Serb refugees from Okučani have been targeted and strafed from military planes and shelled by artillery grenades in their attempt to flee from the attacked zone and to find shelter in neighbouring Bosnia. Contrary to the Cease-Fire Agreement recently concluded between Croatia and the Republic of Serbian Krajina, in the presence of the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Yasushi Akashi, Croatian military and police forces perform mass executions, arrests, harassment and maltreatment of great numbers of civilians, frail children and feeble old people of all ages and both sexes, including captured soldiers of the Republic of Serbian Krajina, taking them to unknown destinations. This inhuman, illegal, criminal and basically genocidal activity of the Croatian side is being continued and expanded.

Apparently, the Croatian side has perceived the recent sluggish and inadequate reaction of the international community, and the Security Council in particular, as an encouragement to continue the policy of aggression and repression against all Serbs living in the occupied region.

Deeply concerned with the ongoing criminal activities of the official armed forces of Croatia against the defenceless and unprotected Serb people in the occupied parts of the Republic of Serbian Krajina, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia demands from the Security Council that it immediately take all necessary measures within Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations in order to ensure an immediate cessation of these activities against the captured and endangered Serbs, the handing over of those captured to the United Nations peace-keeping forces, withdrawal of the Croatian army and police units to their positions before the beginning of the aggression and prevention of new aggression against the Republic of Serbian Krajina.

The present marking of the jubilee of the victory against fascism, to which all peoples who were victims of fascism devote deep emotions and piety, is being exposed to wanton and public mockery by the pro-fascist authorities of the present-day Croatia, which once again decorates itself with the symbols of Hitler and Mussolini and the creation of the so-called Independent State of Croatia, and which commits today the same crimes against the Serb people as the Ustashas did more than half a century ago.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will determine its position towards the current crisis depending on the efficiency of the measures the Security Council will take in order to end the escalation of the aggression of Croatia against the Republic of Serbian Krajina and to eliminate as soon as possible the consequences of the aggression.

Belgrade, 5 May 1995